

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

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TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: LITGAZ DEFENDS SOVIET POLICY ON CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY. LITERARY GAZETTE, IN EXPLICIT RESPONSE TO WESTERN CRITICISM OF SOVIET POSITION ON CONTACTS ISSUES OF CSCE BASKET THREE, MOUNTED FULLPAGE DEFENSE OF SOVIET APPROACH TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, FOREIGN LITERATURE, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE JANUARY 30. HEADLINE IS "INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS? WE'RE FOR THEM*" AND ARTICLE BRISTLES WITH STATISTICS (SOME OF THEM, PARTICULARLY IN PRESS SECTION, GROSSLY DISTORTED) UNDERLINING SOVIET RECEPTIVITY TO CONTACTS. THERE IS NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HINT OF BASKET THREE CONCESSIONS, HOWEVER, AND THE FAMILIAR

LITANY OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, LAWS, CUSTOMS, AND TRADITIONS
IS CITED SEVERAL TIMES AS INDISPENSABLE BASIS FOR CONTACTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. LITGAZ PIECE, REFERRING TO ATTEMPTS BY WESTERN PROPAGANDA
TO DISTORT SOVIET POSITION IN ORDER TO SLOW DOWN DETENTE,
TAKES FORM OF THREE INTERVIEWS: WITH B.I. STUKALIN, CHAIRMAN
OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR PUBLISHING HOUSES, PRINTING PLANTS,
AND BOOK TRADE; V.I. POPOV, DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE; AND
V.N. SOFINSKIY, DIRECTOR OF MFA PRESS DIVISION.

3. STUKALIN INTERVIEW IS DEVOTED MAINLY TO LONG RECITATION
OF FOREIGN WORKS AVAILABLE IN SOVIET UNION (E.G., USSR PUBLISHES
FOUR TIMES AS MANY TRANSLATED BOOKS AS U.S.). HE PRAISES
SOVIET ACCESSION TO COPYRIGHT CONVENTION AS EXAMPLE OF SOVIET
INTEREST IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LITERARY EXCHANGES. HE HAS
CRITICAL WORDS FOR IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA, WHICH IGNORES SOVIET
AND PROGRESSIVE WESTERN WRITERS IN PREFERENCE FOR "ANTI-SOVIET
LAMPOONS OF SOLZHENITSYN." AND HE QUOTES BREZHNEV AT WORLD
CONGRESS OF PEACE FORCES EXPLAINING REAL AIMS OF "THOSE WHO
TALK OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS: INTERFERENCE IN
THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

4. UNDER HEAD "WHO CREATES AND WHO POISONS ATMOSPHERE OF
TRUST," MINCULT'S POPOV REAFFIRMS SOVIET POLICY OF NOT
IMPOSING ANYTHING CONCERNING CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP ON OTHER
NATIONS WHILE RESERVING THE RIGHT NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING CONTRARY
TO SOVIET TRADITIONS AND PRINCIPLES IMPOSED ON THE USSR.
POPOV REFERS TO SECOND STAGE OF CSCE AND TO RESULTS OF UNESCO-
INITIATED MEETINGS HELD OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS IN VENICE,
HELSINKI AND JAKARTA. HE SINGLES OUT OFFICIAL NOTICE TAKEN
AT LATTER OF FACT THAT CULTURAL COOPERATION IS SUPPOSED TO BE
BUILT ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. HE CONCLUDES PROSPECTS OF CULTURAL COOPERATION ARE
MOST FAVORABLE AND GUARANTEED BY PARTY'S POLICY OF DETENTE.

5. MFA'S SOFINSKIY ARTICLE "THE FOREIGN JOURNALIST IN THE
USSR" STATES (AMONG OTHER STATISTICS OF TOURS PROVIDED AND
PRESS CONFERENCES HELD) THAT THERE ARE 240 PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED
CORRESPONDENTS FROM 46 COUNTRIES IN MOSCOW REPRESENTING MORE
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THE 180 NEWS ORGANS. THE USSR "WELCOMES EVERY KIND OF JOURNALIST
SO LONG AS THEY COME TO US WITH THE AIM OF ENHANCING MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING, AND RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THIS COUNTRY'S
LAWS AND THE TRADITIONS OF THE PEOPLE." TO THE QUESTION OF
WHETHER HE EVER HAS DIFFICULTY WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS
SOFINSKIY ALLOWS AS HOW HIS JOB IS NOT EASY: THE MAJORITY OF
NEWSMEN DO OBJECTIVELY COVER SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT, BUT "THERE
ARE A FEW, A CURIOUS PHENOMENON IN THEIR OWN WAY, WHO WASTE

THEIR ENERGY TRYING TO UNCOVER NON-EXISTENT FACTS, AND WHO
CONCENTRATE ON THE SO-CALLED PROBLEM OF DISSIDENTS, WHICH
HAS NO PLACE IN THE LIFE OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE." DUBS

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